

Field and Garden.

Drilling Wheat.

If anything is settled in agricultural preaching and experience for the last twenty-five years, and advantages of drilling wheat, over broadcast sowing, is one of them. In this section wheat is almost universally drilled in; but among our subscribers in other sections, and especially in the South and Southwest, broadcast sowing and covering with the common harrow is still mostly in vogue.

In one of the Agricultural Reports from the Department at Washington, where statistics of the crops from every section are collected, there has been a remarkable agreement in stating that drilled wheat has been found to suffer so much from freezing out in winter.

This results from the seed being put in and covered at a greater depth than it can be with the common harrow, and also being covered with more uniformity. One to two pecks less seed is also required per acre; and it has also been found that drilled wheat stands up better at harvest time, from being better rooted.

It is difficult to give an average increase production of one mode over the other, but there are few farmers who would estimate it less than five bushels per acre, while drilling is often equivalent to saving of the entire crop.

Grain drills have been greatly improved within the last few years, not only being lighter of draft and easier to operate, but have combinations to sow both fertilizer and grass seed with the grain. One of the best in the market was advertised in our June number.

In this dairy district the successful setting of the grass seed is hardly less important than the crop of grain; and owing to the more frequent circulation of air, or more thoroughly pulverized and mellow condition of the soil when the drill is used, grass germinates more regularly and freely. Where fields are ploughed up as they are here, once in eight or ten years, the loss of a grass field coming in regularly in the rotation, is about as great a loss and inconvenience as can be met with; and in this connection may be mentioned a new approved plan of liming on the surface the fall succeeding the harvesting of the wheat crop. This strengthens the young grass roots, and is thought to secure the whole benefit of the lime.—*Practical Farmer.*

Stable Floors of Gravel, Stone and Coal Tar.

Among the materials of late recommended for stable floors, are a mixture of coal tar with gravel and stone. The manner in which the work is done is to take small stones and put them in a pile, pouring over the same the gas tar, and then mixing with a shovel until the stones are coated. These stones are now laid on the floor and raked off level, and a sufficient quantity used to make the floor about three inches deep. Upon this floor coarse gravel mixed in the same way with tar is placed. The mixture is effected by putting the gravel in piles and making a hole in the top, pouring in the tar and mixing with a shovel. It is then spread over the stones two inches thick.

No more tar should be used than just sufficient to coat the stones and gravel, as it will be longer in drying. The stones and gravel being laid as above, a heavy roller weighing 400 or 500 pounds is passed over the floor until it is perfectly compact, and any places not touched by the roller are beaten down with a heavy maul. While rolling and mauling is going on, the surface should be strewn over with fine gravel and sand, to take up the surplus tar, and should be continued until the surface is dry enough to walk upon and not stick to one's shoes. The floor is rat proof and water proof, and becomes hard and durable, making, it is said, the best floor that can be put into a stable; though only objection being the smell of the tar, which, however, is healthy, and in time passes off.

We find the substance of the above in the *Vermont Record*, without any name being given of the persons who have tried it. We should presume that a good substantial floor could be laid in this way, and it has the merit of being cheap, and what every farmer and his workmen can readily do, without employing more expensive labor. It looks practical and is well worth trying.—*Utica Herald.*

[Foot-walks in rural districts, convenient to gas works, made in like manner are common, and of great durability.]

Canning Fruit.

The annexed number of canning fruit was furnished to the New York Farmers' Club, by Mrs. Powers, of Oswego Co., N. Y.:

I will suppose your fruit and glass cans are all ready. I prefer cans with glass covers. I seal the fruit in a large tin pan, with juice or water to cover it. Put half a tea-spoon of cold water into every can, and fill up with hot water. Now empty a can and fill full with the hot fruit, and then others.

Let them stand open till the hand can be held upon them without burning. As soon as filled cut writing papers the size of the can, one for each, and then clip one over the fruit entirely, and fill up the can on top of the paper with boiling juice, and seal at one. Ladies, try this way; the fruit will never mould, and will keep any time, if you don't eat it.

The papers keep the fruit from rising to the top of the liquid. There is no use of setting cans into water to heat them, or of putting them into quilted bags, it is too troublesome. I let the fruit shrink, and then fill up to the cover as close as possible. Ladies must be governed by their own common sense. Men attempt to give directions, but their wives have to tell them and then they are likely to forget.

To Figs.—Wipe them well, and stick into each one a sprig of four clovers, and place in a cracker jar, pour over them. Two or three pecks of peaches about three pounds of sugar, and one quart of vinegar. Seal and pour over three successive mornings.—*Maryland Farmer.*

A New Mulch for the Grapes.

I find leached ashes cut (green) grass the best mulch I can use. The ashes gather moisture and repel heat (by their color). Grapevines that were mulched at the commencement of the drought are doing finely. The moisture extends not only to the surface, but into the grass, (rooted). This has been moist since it has been applied, some three weeks. It is partly rotten, so that the ground derives nutriment from it. A shower now would enrich this effectually. Thus this mulch is both protective and enriching, and the nutriment of a kind that is wasted, the vegetable or carbonaceous. A good mulch in the summer, and a coat in the fall of this kind, is all I want on fair or even moderately poor soil, providing always the soil is in a healthy, friable condition. I also want clay to a considerable extent. Then close pinching in the start with plenty of room on the trellis, and if the year is not a bad one—particularly a wet one—I should have plenty of fruit. A drought like the present, with heat unexampled, seems a benefit rather than a hurt. And should the wet set in, there is extent on the trellis that gives plenty of air and takes what sun there is. I thus defy the drought, and fear little more the wet season. But for a drought, cut grass and leached ashes are a reliance that it does you good to contemplate. The ashes are also a benefit manorially; it requires but a thin coat, so as to cover well the grass.

It is time yet to benefit vines by the application. First, mellow the soil; spread the grass several inches thick; sprinkle with water, and apply the ashes. Weeds or garden refuse are a good substitute for grass.—*Conn. Country Gent.*

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